

***What Every Member of the  
Trade Community Should Know About:***

***The Classification of  
Hats and Other  
Headgear  
(under HTSUS heading 6505)***



An Advanced Level  
Informed Compliance Publication of the  
U.S. Customs Service

March 1999

## **NOTICE:**

This publication was prepared for the guidance and information of the trade community. It reflects the Customs Service's position or interpretation of the applicable laws or regulations as of the date of publication, as shown on the front cover. It does not in any way replace or supersede the laws or regulations. Only the latest official version of the laws or regulations is authoritative.

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## PREFACE

On December 8, 1993, Title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057), which is also known as the Customs Modernization Act or "Mod Act," became effective. These provisions amended many sections of the Tariff Act of 1930 and related laws. Two new concepts which emerge from the Mod Act are "**informed compliance**" and "**shared responsibility**." These concepts are premised on the idea that in order to maximize voluntary compliance with Customs laws and regulations, the trade community needs to be clearly and completely informed of its legal obligations. Accordingly, the Mod Act imposes a greater obligation on Customs to provide the public with improved information concerning the trade community's responsibilities and rights under the Customs and related laws. In addition, both the trade and Customs share responsibility in carrying out import requirements. For example, under section 484 of the Tariff Act, as amended, (19 U.S.C. §1484) the importer of record is responsible for using reasonable care to enter, classify and value imported merchandise, and provide any other information necessary to enable Customs to properly assess duties, collect accurate statistics and determine whether any other applicable legal requirement is met. The Customs Service is then responsible for fixing the final classification and value of the merchandise. The failure of an importer of record to exercise reasonable care may lead to delay in the release of merchandise or the imposition of penalties.

This office has been given a major role in meeting Customs informed compliance responsibilities. In order to provide information to the public, Customs intends to issue a series of informed compliance publications, and possibly CD-ROMs and videos, on topics such as value, classification, entry procedures, determination of country of origin, marking requirements, intellectual property rights, record keeping, drawback, penalties and liquidated damages.

The National Commodity Specialist Division of the Office of Regulations and Rulings has prepared this publication on ***The Classification of Hats and Other Headgear (under HTSUS heading 6505)*** as part of a series of informed compliance publications regarding the classification of imported merchandise. It is hoped that this material, together with seminars and increased access to Customs rulings, will help the trade community in improving voluntary compliance with the Customs laws.

The information provided in this publication is for general information purposes only. Recognizing that many complicated factors may be involved in customs issues, an importer may wish to obtain a ruling under Customs Regulations, 19 CFR Part 177, or obtain advice from an expert (such as a licensed Customs Broker, attorney or consultant) who specializes in Customs matters. Reliance solely on the general information in this pamphlet may not be considered reasonable care.

Comments and suggestions are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Assistant Commissioner at the Office of Regulations and Rulings, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20229.

Stuart P. Seidel  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Regulations and Rulings

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## INTRODUCTION

When goods are imported into the Customs Territory of the United States (the fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico), they are subject to certain formalities involving the U.S. Customs Service. In almost all cases, the goods are required to be “entered,” that is, declared to the Customs Service, and are subject to detention and examination by Customs officers to insure compliance with all laws and regulations enforced or administered by the United States Customs Service. As part of the entry process, goods must be “classified” (determined where in the U.S. tariff system they fall) and their value must be determined. Pursuant to the Customs Modernization Act, it is now the responsibility of the importer of record to use “reasonable care” to “enter,” “classify” and “value” the goods and provide any other information necessary to enable the Customs Service to properly assess duties, collect accurate statistics, and determine whether all other applicable legal requirements are met.

Classifying goods is important not only for duty purposes, but also to determine whether the goods are subject to quotas, restraints, embargoes or other restrictions. The act of classifying goods is complex and requires an importer to be familiar with the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* (HTSUS), its 99 chapters, rules of interpretation, and notes. A detailed discussion of the HTSUS may be found in a companion publication entitled, *What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know about Tariff Classification*. Customs valuation requirements are separately discussed in a companion publication entitled, *What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know about Customs Value*. Both of these publications are available from the Customs Electronic Bulletin Board and Customs World Wide Web pages on the Internet (see the Appendix for information on accessing these sources and obtaining additional Customs Service publications).

The purpose of this Informed Compliance publication is to advise importers, customs brokers and others of the various issues affecting the importation and tariff classification of hats and other headgear under heading 6505, HTSUS.

## HEADING 6505

Heading 6505 of the HTSUS provides for “Hats and other headgear, knitted or crocheted, or made up from lace, felt or other textile fabric, in the piece (but not in strips), whether or not lined or trimmed; hair-nets of any material, whether or not lined or trimmed.” This heading includes six-digit subheadings for “Hair-nets” (subheading 6505.10) and “Other” (subheading 6505.90).

The six-digit subheading 6505.90 is divided by component material and construction of the material into eight-digit subheadings. “Of cotton, flax or both” is covered by

6505.90.15 through 6505.90.25; "Of wool" is covered by 6505.90.30 through 6505.90.40; "Of man-made fibers" is covered by 6505.90.50 through 6505.90.80; and "Other" is covered by 6505.90.90.

The Explanatory Notes (EN)<sup>1</sup> to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System are published by the World Customs Organization (Customs Cooperation Council). Although not legally binding, they represent the official interpretation of the tariff at the international level. The EN to 65.05, page 968, state that:

"This heading covers hats and headgear (whether or not lined or trimmed) made directly by knitting or crocheting (whether or not fulled or felted), or made up from lace, felt or other textile fabric in the piece, whether or not the fabric has been oiled, waxed, rubberized or otherwise impregnated or coated."

This means that under this heading knit or crocheted hats and headgear can be made of any material; if not knitted or crocheted they must be of textile fabric.

The heading "includes hat-shapes made by sewing but **not** hat-shapes or headgear made by sewing or otherwise assembling plaits or strips (**heading 65.04**)."<sup>1</sup> (See the EN to 65.02 and 65.04 for a good explanation regarding this exclusion). The EN to 65.05, state the heading includes:

- (1) Hats, whether or not trimmed with ribbons, hat pins, buckles, artificial flowers, foliage or fruit, feathers or other trimmings of any material.

Headgear of feathers or artificial flowers is **excluded (heading 65.06)**.

- (2) Berets (**other than** those made directly from felt plateaux - **heading 65.03**), bonnets, skull-caps and the like. These are usually made directly by knitting or crocheting, and are frequently fulled (e.g., basque berets).
- (3) Certain oriental headgear (e.g., fezzes). These are usually made directly by knitting or crocheting, and are frequently fulled.
- (4) Peaked caps of various kinds (uniform caps, etc.).
- (5) Professional and ecclesiastical headgear (mitres, birettas, mortar-boards, etc.).
- (6) Headgear made up from woven fabric, lace, net fabric, etc., such as chefs' hats, nuns' head-dresses, nurses' or waitresses' caps, etc., having clearly the character of headgear.
- (7) Cork or pith helmets, covered with textile fabric.

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<sup>1</sup> Explanatory Notes © 1996 Customs Co-operation Council (formal name of the World Customs Organization). The Explanatory Notes are available in printed and electronic versions from commercial sources or The World Customs Organization, Espace Nord, rue du Marché 30, B1210 Brussels, Belgium



- (8) Sou'westers.
- (9) Hoods.

Detachable hoods for capes, cloaks, etc., presented with the garments to which they belong, are, however, **excluded** and are classified with the garments according to their constituent materials.

- (10) Top hats and opera hats.

This heading also includes hair-nets, snoods and the like. These are of any material, generally of tulle or other net, knitted or crocheted fabric or of human hair.

Non-woven fabric headgear is included in this heading. Classification of hats and headgear impacts on the proper textile category designation of the merchandise.

Importers and brokers commonly enter heading 6505 products under incorrect eight-digit subheadings based on the wrong material or wrong material construction. Cotton, flax, wool and man-made fibers have their own subheadings. In addition, the subheadings for these materials require division based upon their material construction, i.e. whether knitted, crocheted or other (not knitted, primarily woven or non-woven).

This publication will also discuss a common error which occurs when man-made fiber merchandise is entered in subheadings 6505.90.50 through 6505.90.80. It will review what constitutes "Wholly or in part of braid" in subheadings 6505.90.50 and 6505.90.70.

## **HAIR-NETS**

Subheading 6505.10 includes hair-nets and snoods (a bag-like hairnet worn on the back of the head or over a bun). In general, these are of net, knit or crocheted construction and can be of any material, including human hair.

## **OTHER**

Subheading 6505.90 consists of four significant subheading groupings.

### **HATS AND OTHER HEADGEAR OF COTTON, FLAX OR BOTH (6505.90.15 through 6505.90.25)**

Cotton hats, baseball caps, sun visors and babies' hats fall under these subheadings. To arrive at a classification under these subheadings you must determine whether the fabric is of cotton, of flax or of a combination of the two and whether the fabric from which the hats or headgear is made is knitted or not knitted (primarily woven).

Visors and other headgear which do not cover the crown of the head must be accurately described as there are separate statistical breakouts for this type of merchandise under subheadings 6505.90.1525 (knitted) and 6505.90.2545 (not knitted).

Statistical breakouts for babies' hats and headgear of cotton are provided for under subheadings 6505.90.1515 (knitted) and 6505.90.2030 (not knitted). The item must be sized 0 to 24 months. Toddler sizes do not fall under these numbers.

Woven cotton hats are often incorrectly classified under subheading 6505.90.2590. This error occurs because certified hand-loomed and folklore products of cotton, and headwear of cotton are grouped under the same statistical breakouts. Woven cotton hats are properly classified under subheading 6505.90.2060 which provides for "Not knitted: Certified hand-loomed and folklore products; **and headwear of cotton**" (emphasis added).

### **HATS AND OTHER HEADGEAR OF WOOL (6505.90.30 through 6505.90.40)**

Wool hats, baseball caps, sun visors and babies' hats fall under these subheadings. To arrive at a classification under these subheadings you must determine whether the fabric from which the hats or headgear are made is of wool and whether it is knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabric, or of other construction (primarily woven).

Visors and other headgear which do not cover the crown of the head must be accurately described as there are separate statistical breakouts for this type of merchandise under subheadings 6505.90.3045 (knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabric) and 6505.90.4045 (other).

Statistical breakouts for babies' hats and headgear of wool are provided for under subheadings 6505.90.3030 (knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabric) and 6505.90.4030 (other). The item must be sized 0 to 24 months. Toddler sizes do not fall under these numbers.

### **HATS AND OTHER HEADGEAR OF MAN-MADE FIBERS (6505.90.50 through 6505.90.80)**

Man-made fiber hats, baseball caps, sun visors, disposable headgear and babies' hats fall under these subheadings. To arrive at a classification under these subheadings you must determine whether the fabric is of man-made fibers and whether the fabric from which the hats or headgear are made is knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabric, or of other construction (primarily woven or non-woven).

Visors and other headgear which do not cover the crown of the head must be accurately described as there are separate statistical breakouts for this type of

merchandise under subheadings 6505.90.5045 (knitted or crocheted, wholly or in part of braid) 6505.90.6045 (knitted or crocheted, not in part of braid), 6505.90.7045 (other, wholly or in part of braid) and 6505.90.8050 (other, not in part of braid).

Statistical breakouts for babies' hats and headgear of man-made fibers are provided for under subheadings 6505.90.5030 (knitted or crocheted, wholly or in part of braid), 6505.90.6030 (knitted or crocheted, not in part of braid), 6506.90.7030 (other, wholly or in part of braid) and 6505.90.8045 (other, not in part of braid). The item must be sized 0 to 24 months. Toddler sizes do not fall under these numbers.

Note two very specific statistical breakouts. Man-made fiber hats or headgear, knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabric, not in part of braid, not for babies, containing 23% or more by weight of wool or fine animal hair are classified under subheading 6505.90.6040. Man-made fiber hats or headgear, not in part of braid, that are non-woven disposable headgear without peaks or visors are classified under subheading 6505.90.8015.

## WHOLLY OR IN PART OF BRAID

Within the subheadings for hats and headgear of man-made fibers are provisions for items "Wholly or in part of braid." Customs has found that much of the misclassification within heading 6505 is the result of misclassification under the "Wholly or in part of braid" subheadings 6505.90.50 and 6505.90.70. A full and detailed explanation of this term is necessary to facilitate proper classification under these provisions.

When merchandise is classifiable in Heading 6505 as a hat of man-made fibers, we must determine whether it is classifiable as "in part of braid." General Note 19 of the HTSUS provides in pertinent part the following:

19. Definitions. For the purposes of the tariff schedule, unless the context otherwise requires--

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- (e) the terms "wholly of", "in part of", and "containing", when used between the description of an article and a material (e.g., "woven fabrics, wholly of cotton"), have the following meanings:
  - (i) "wholly of" means that the goods are, except for negligible or insignificant quantities of some other material or materials, composed completely of the named material;
  - (ii) "in part of" or "containing" mean that the goods contain a significant quantity of the named material.

With regard to the application of the quantitative concepts specified above, it is intended that the *de minimis* rule apply.

*De minimis* means that an ingredient or component of an article may be ignored for classification purposes depending upon "whether or not the amount used has really changed or affected the nature of the article and, of course, its salability" as stated by the court in *Varsity Watch Company v. United States*, 34 CCPA 155, C.A.D. 359 (1947). The Customs Service has determined, in applying *de minimis* to the term "in part of braid," that if the quantity of braid in the sample submitted serves a useful purpose or affects the nature of the article or increases the salability of the article, it is considered to be in part of braid. (See ruling HQ 089076 dated July 31, 1991). Hats "in part of braid" can be divided into two categories: those where the braid serves a useful purpose, and those where the braid affects the nature of the article.

### **Braid Serves a Useful Purpose**

Braid commonly serves a useful purpose when it affects the shape of the article or helps hold the item to the head. This type of braid can be found on many types of hats and headgear.

A knit hat with a hidden band of braided elastic in its interior was considered to be in part of braid. The opening of the head was approximately 3 inches in its unstretched condition. The purpose of the braided elastic was functional, it retained and reinforced the stretch and recovery of the knit fabric and therefore helped to maintain the shape and fit of the hat as a whole. (See ruling NY A82685 dated May 15, 1996).

A woven baseball style cap with an adjustable drawstring consisting of braided cord at the rear of the cap was in part of braid. The braid functioned to adjust the size of the cap to the wearer. (See ruling NY A88595 dated October 24, 1996).

Woven and knitted slumber caps, coiffure bonnets and shower caps with a braided elastic sewn around the inside edge which helped hold the articles on the head were considered in part of braid. (See ruling DD 841800 dated July 12, 1989).

A knitted man-made fiber mosquito head net with braided elastic at the base to keep it secure was considered in part of braid. (See rulings NY 835608 dated February 1, 1989, HQ 950365 dated January 16, 1992).

A knit hat with a thin elasticized braid inserted at the lower edge was determined to be not in part of braid because it was small, could not be seen and did not affect the nature of the article. (See ruling HQ 089076 dated July 31, 1991).

A knit beret containing braided elastic yarn which loosely laid at the cuff was not in part of braid. The rib knit cuff performed natural elasticity and required no elastics. (See ruling NY 848709 dated January 12, 1990).

An acrylic knit infants' hat with an elastic braid in the welt running through the inside of the hat approximately 1 inch from the bottom was not in part of braid. The amount of braid was small, it was concealed and the hat could be worn without it. The fabric was constructed to stretch and recover its original shape without the additional elastic braid. (See ruling HQ 950792 dated March 31, 1992).

An acrylic knit hat with an intertwining of elastic braid throughout the hat was not in part of braid. The braid did not impart any additional elasticity which was not already imparted by the acrylic knitted material. (See ruling HQ 952956 dated February 23, 1993).

### **Braid Affects the Nature of the Article**

Braid commonly affects the nature of the article when it is used for decorative purposes. This type of braid can be found on many types of hats, but is commonly found in baseball style caps where the braid is between the peak and the crown.

On baseball style caps, the braid is usually approximately 9 inches long and can vary in width. Headquarters rulings have held that a braid as narrow as 3/16 and 1/8 inch wide is considered in part of braid because the amount of the braid was considered significant. (See rulings HQ 088438 dated January 14, 1991, HQ 953465 dated April 21, 1993). However, a braid 1/16 wide was not considered in part of braid because the braid was not readily visible nor did it appear to serve any functional purpose. (See rulings HQ 960026 dated November 12, 1997, NY B89499 dated September 29, 1997).

A knit hat with a pom-pom attached to it by a small length of braid was not considered in part of braid because the piece of braid was small and did not affect the nature or salability of the article. (See ruling HQ 950792 dated March 31, 1992).

### **OTHER HATS AND OTHER HEADGEAR (6505.90.90)**

Hats and other headgear classified under heading 6505 (but not hair-nets or hats or other headgear made of cotton, flax, wool or man-made fibers) fall under this subheading. Fabric construction is not an issue in this subheading which includes:

6505.90.9030 - Silk hats and headgear, containing 70% or more by weight of silk or silk waste.

- 6505.90.9045 - Hats and headgear, of fine animal hair of alpaca, llama, vicuna, camel, yak, Angora, Tibetan, Kashmir or similar goats, rabbit (including Angora rabbit), hare, beaver, nutria or muskrat.
- 6505.90.9050 - Paper yarn hats and headgear. Under the HTSUS, paper yarns are considered to be textile material. They are usually knitted or crocheted.
- 6505.90.9075 - Raffia hats and headgear. These are usually knitted or crocheted.
- 6505.90.9085 - Silk hats and headgear not classified under 6505.90.9030.
  - Seagrass hats and headgear.
  - Vegetable fiber hats and headgear.

### **THE IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Since the enactment of the Customs Modernization Act in December, 1993, the legal burden of correctly classifying and valuing merchandise has shifted from the Customs Service to the importer, who must use reasonable care in carrying out these responsibilities.

When a hat or other headgear is imported, the importer should be aware of the composition of the component material or materials (i.e. the fiber content), the construction of the materials (knit, crocheted, woven, non-woven, etc.) and should obtain specific information from the foreign supplier regarding each component material.

The importer should also be aware of the distinctions made in 6505 among cotton, wool, man-made fibers and other materials as well as knit, crocheted and other constructions (primarily woven and non-woven construction). If the item is of man-made materials, the importer should be aware of whether it contains braid. If so, the importer should then ascertain if the braid serves a useful purpose or affects the nature of the article or increases the salability of the article. If there are any doubts regarding this information, the importer should contact Customs.

The importer is also responsible for insuring that the entered value is determined in accordance with the Customs valuation law. (See "ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" below)

A binding ruling regarding the classification of a product may be requested prior to importation. See Part 177 of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 177). A ruling request should include a sample of the item as well as information on its use and precise composition and construction. Each material which comprises the product should be identified. For sets, or composite goods, a breakdown indicating the quantity, weight, value and role of each component should be submitted with the ruling request. Requests for

tariff classification rulings should be addressed to the Director, National Commodity Specialist Division, U.S. Customs Service, Attn: Classification Ruling Requests, 6 World Trade Center, New York, New York 10048.

## **INVOICING REQUIREMENTS**

In accordance with section 141.86 of the Customs Regulations, "Contents of invoices and general requirements," (19 CFR 141.86), invoices should describe the precise nature and use of the merchandise. Each component material of the article should be identified as well as its construction (knit, woven, etc.). If possible the invoice should provide a complete breakdown by weight and a complete breakdown by value, indicating the percentage of the article (by weight and value) represented by each component.

The style name and brand name of the article is important and would be helpful if indicated on the invoice along with the marks, numbers and symbols which represent this merchandise. In addition, an invoice should provide information on the unit value, the total value of the shipment, quantity and terms of sale. When a product is a set, the invoice should not simply indicate the value of the entire set but should identify each article within the set and provide the unit value for each of these items. Please see *"What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About: Customs Value"* for information on determining value for Customs purposes. This publication is available on the Customs Electronic Bulletin Board and the Customs Internet Web site, both of which are described below.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Customs Electronic Bulletin Board**

The Customs Electronic Bulletin Board (CEBB) is an automated system that provides the trade community with current, relevant information about Customs operations and items of special interest. The CEBB is one of several Customs Service efforts to establish a more trade-friendly position vis-a-vis the importing and exporting community.

The CEBB posts timely information -- which includes proposed regulations, news releases, Customs publications and notices, etc. -- that can be downloaded to your PC. The Customs Service does not charge the public to use the CEBB; you only pay telephone charges.

The CEBB may be accessed by modem or through the Customs Service's home page on the World Wide Web. If you access it through a personal computer with a modem, set up your terminal as ANSI, set databits to 8, set parity to N and stopbits to 1. Dial (703) 921-6155, and log on with your name. Then choose a password. The systems will then prompt you with a few questions, after which you will be able to get up-to-date

information from Customs. If you have any questions about the CEBB, please call (703) 921-6236.

## **The Internet**

The Customs Service's home page on the Internet's World Wide Web, which began public operation on August 1, 1996, also provides the trade community with current, relevant information regarding Customs operations and items of special interest. Like the CEBB, the web site was established as another trade-friendly mechanism to assist the importing and exporting community. Although some of the material on the CEBB and the web site is the same, the web site links to the home pages of many other agencies whose importing or exporting regulations Customs helps to enforce. Customs web site also contains a wealth of information of interest to a broader public than the trade community -- to international travelers, for example.

The home page will post timely information including proposed and final regulations, rulings, news releases, Customs publications and notices, etc., which can be searched, read on-line, printed or downloaded to your own PC. In addition, the CEBB can be accessed through our home page (see above). The Customs Service's web address is <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>.

## **Customs Regulations**

The current edition of *Customs Regulations of the United States* is a loose-leaf, subscription publication available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; telephone 202-512-1800. A bound, 1999 edition of Title 19, *Code of Federal Regulations*, which incorporates all changes to the Customs Regulations from April 1998 through March 1999, is also available for sale from the same address. All proposed and final regulations are published in the *Federal Register*, which is published daily by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, and distributed by the Superintendent of Documents. Information about on-line access to the *Federal Register* may be obtained by calling (202) 512-1530 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time. These notices are also published in the weekly *Customs Bulletin*, described below.

## **Customs Bulletin**

The *Customs Bulletin and Decisions* ("Customs Bulletin") is a weekly publication that contains decisions, rulings, regulatory proposals, notices and other information of interest to the trade community. It also contains decisions issued by the U.S. Court of International Trade, as well as Customs-related decisions of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Each year, the Government Printing Office publishes bound volumes of the



Customs Bulletin. Subscriptions may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents at the address and phone number listed above.

## **Importing Into the United States**

This publication provides an overview of the importing process and contains general information about import requirements. The 1998 edition of *Importing Into the United States* contains much new and revised material brought about pursuant to the Customs Modernization Act ("Mod Act"). The Mod Act has fundamentally altered the relationship between importers and the Customs Service by shifting to the importer the legal responsibility for declaring the value, classification, and rate of duty applicable to entered merchandise.

The 1998 edition contains a new section entitled "Informed Compliance." A key component of informed compliance is the shared responsibility between Customs and the import community, wherein Customs communicates its requirements to the importer, and the importer, in turn, uses reasonable care to assure that Customs is provided accurate and timely data pertaining to his or her importations.

Single copies may be obtained from local Customs offices or from the Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20229. An on-line version is available at the Customs web site. *Importing Into the United States* is also available for sale, in single copies or bulk orders, from the Superintendent of Documents by calling (202) 512-1800, or by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15250-7054.

## **Video Tapes**

The Customs Service has prepared a series of video tapes in VHS format for the trade community and other members of the public. As of the date of this publication, four tapes are available and are described below.

If you would like more information on any of the tapes below, or if you would like to order them, please send a written request to: U.S. Customs Service, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Suite 3.4A, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20229, Attn: Operational Oversight Division. Orders must be accompanied by a *check or money order drawn on a U.S. financial institution* and made payable to U.S. Customs Service. Prices include postage.

- !** *Rules of Origin for Textiles and Apparel Products* is a two-hour tape aimed at increasing understanding of the new rules, which became effective July 1, 1996. Copies of this tape are available from many trade organizations,

customs brokers, consultants and law firms, or it can be ordered from the U.S. Customs Service for \$20.00.

- ! *Customs Compliance: Why You Should Care* is a 30-minute tape divided into two parts. Part I, almost 18 minutes in length, is designed to provide senior executives and others in the importing or exporting business with an overview of the significant features of the Customs Modernization Act and the reasons to adopt new strategies in order to minimize legal exposure under the Act. Part I features former Customs Commissioner George Weise, Assistant Commissioner for Regulations and Rulings Stuart Seidel, and Motorola's Vice President and Director of Corporate Compliance, Jack Bradshaw.

Part II is intended primarily for import/export compliance officers, legal departments and company officers. About 12 minutes long, Part II explains why Customs and the trade can benefit from sharing responsibilities under Customs laws. It also provides viewers with legal detail on record keeping, potential penalties for non-compliance, and on the Customs prior-disclosure program. Assistant Commissioner Seidel is the featured speaker. The cost is \$15.00.

- ! *Account Management: Team Building for World Trade*, a 13-½-minute tape on account management, discusses what account management is and why there is a need for it. Account Management is a new approach to working with the trade in which a company is treated as an account, rather than being dealt with on a transaction by transaction basis. The tape includes discussions with Customs account managers and representatives of importers ("accounts") relating to the benefits of account management from the perspectives of the both the Customs Service and the trade community. The cost is \$15.00.

- ! *General-Order Warehousing: Rules for Handling Unclaimed Merchandise*, 90 minutes long, was prepared jointly by the Customs Service and the trade community on the subject of general-order merchandise (unclaimed goods). The tape includes question-and-answer discussions that define procedures required to implement the new general-order laws and regulations and why there is a need to have effective procedures for handling unclaimed goods. The cost is \$15.00.

## Informed Compliance Publications

The U. S. Customs Service has prepared a number of Informed Compliance publications in the *What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About*: series. As of the date of this publication, the subjects listed below were available.

- |                 |  |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 1. Customs Value (5/96)  | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 21. Reasonable Care (1/98)   |
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 2. Raw Cotton: Tariff Classification and Import Quotas (5/13/96) | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 22. Footwear (1/98)  |
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 3. NAFTA for Textiles & Textile Articles (5/14/96)               | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 23. Drawback (3/98)  |
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 4. Buying & Selling Commissions (6/96)                           | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 24. Lamps, Lighting and Candle Holders (3/98)  |
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 5. Fibers & Yarn (8/96)  | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 25. NAFTA Eligibility and Building Stone (3/98)  |
| #Q <sup>3</sup> | 6. Textile & Apparel Rules of Origin (11/96, Revised 11/98)      | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 26. Rules of Origin (5/98)   |
|                 |  | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 27. Records and Recordkeeping Requirements (6/98)  |
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 7. Mushrooms (10/96)   | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 28. ABC's of Prior Disclosure (6/98)   |
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 8. Marble (11/96)  | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 29. Gloves, Mittens and Mitts (6/98)   |
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 9. Peanuts (11/96)   | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 30. Waste & Scrap under Chapter 81 (6/98)  |
| #Q <sup>1</sup> | 10. Bona Fide Sales & Sales for Exportation (11/96)              | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 31. Tableware, Kitchenware, Other Household Articles and Toilet Articles of Plastics (11/98) |
| #Q <sup>2</sup> | 11. Caviar (2/97)  | #Q <sup>3</sup> | 32. Textile & Apparel Rules of Origin Index of Rulings (11/98)                               |
| #Q <sup>2</sup> | 12. Granite (2/97)   | #               | 33. Knit to Shape Apparel Products (1/99)  |
| #Q <sup>2</sup> | 13. Distinguishing Bolts from Screws (5/97)                      | #               | 34. Hats and Other Headgear (under HTSUS 6505)(3/99)   |
| #Q <sup>2</sup> | 14. Internal Combustion Piston Engines (5/97)                    |                 |  |
| #Q <sup>2</sup> | 15. Vehicles, Parts and Accessories (5/97)                       |                 |  |
| #Q <sup>2</sup> | 16. Articles of Wax, Artificial Stone and Jewelry (8/97)         |                 |  |
| #Q <sup>2</sup> | 17. Tariff Classification (11/97)                                |                 |  |
| #Q <sup>2</sup> | 18. Classification of Festive Articles (11/97)                   |                 |  |
| #Q <sup>3</sup> | 19. Ribbons & Trimmings (1/98)                                   |                 |  |
| #Q <sup>3</sup> | 20. Agriculture Actual Use (1/98)                                |                 |  |

# indicates publications which are available for downloading from the Customs Electronic Bulletin Board ((703)-921-6155 or through Customs Home Page on the Internet);

**Q** indicates the publication is on Customs Home Page on the Internet's World Wide Web (<http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>);

<sup>1</sup> denotes reprinted in *30/31 Customs Bulletin No.50/1*, January 2, 1997;

<sup>2</sup> denotes reprinted in *32 Customs Bulletin No.2/3*, January 21, 1998;

<sup>3</sup> denotes reprinted in *32 Customs Bulletin No. 51*, December 23, 1998.

Check the Customs Electronic Bulletin Board and the Customs Internet website for more recent publications.

## **Other Value Publications**

*Customs Valuation under the Trade Agreements Act of 1979* is a 96-page book containing a detailed narrative description of the customs valuation system, the customs valuation title of the Trade Agreements Act (§402 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended by the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. §1401a)), the Statement of Administrative Action which was sent to the U.S. Congress in conjunction with the TAA, regulations (19 CFR §§152.000-152.108) implementing the valuation system (a few sections of the regulations have been amended subsequent to the publication of the book) and questions and answers concerning the valuation system. A copy may be obtained from the U.S. Customs Service, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Value Branch, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20229.

*Customs Valuation Encyclopedia* (with updates) is comprised of relevant statutory provisions, Customs Regulations implementing the statute, portions of the Customs Valuation Code, judicial precedent, and administrative rulings involving application of valuation law. A copy may be purchased for a nominal charge from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15250-7054.

Additional information may be also be obtained from Customs ports of entry. Please consult your telephone directory for a Customs office near you. The listing will be found under U.S. Government, Treasury Department.

The information provided in this publication is for general information purposes only. Recognizing that many complicated factors may be involved in customs issues, an importer may wish to obtain a ruling under Customs Regulations, 19 CFR Part 177, or obtain advice from an expert (such as a licensed Customs Broker, attorney or consultant) who specializes in Customs matters. Reliance solely on the general information in this pamphlet may not be considered reasonable care.

**“Your Comments are Important”**

The Small Business and Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and 10 regional Fairness Boards were established to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement activities and rate each agency’s responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on the enforcement actions of U.S. Customs, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

